

Cool and Dry

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 29, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Precipitation amounts ranged from none in the central Lower Peninsula to 0.38 inches in the Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees below normal in the southwest Lower Peninsula to 1 degree above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Crops continue to be affected by the persistent cool weather. Where there has been warmer weather, the crops have responded. A farmer in the central Lower Peninsula mentioned, “Somewhat warmer temperatures, the corn really looked yellow for a while, but two days of 70 degree weather made a significant change in the color.” Shorter stands of alfalfa and grass hay were reported by several farmers across the State. A farmer in the Thumb reported, “Hay is shorter than usual due to the cool weather.”

Field Crops

Light showers and scattered thunderstorm activity moved across the State. Temperatures during the week ranged from below normal to average. **Corn** growth continued to progress slowly. Some fields were in the 2 to 3 leaf stage. Most fields were reported as being pale in color. **Soybean** planting neared completion. Early planted fields were reported as setting their first trifoliate leaf while other fields emerged. **Sugarbeet** growth continued and many fields looked good. **Alfalfa** growth also continued with some fields at bloom. There were few reports of an early first cutting. Alfalfa weevil was spotted in some fields. **Winter wheat** varied across the State with some fields heading. There were continued reports of powdery mildew. **Oats** looked good but fields varied in growth stages. **Barley** looked good.

Fruit

Insect activity increased throughout the State last week in response to warmer temperatures. Growers found the weather favorable to begin chemically thinning some orchards. In the southwest, **apples** were showing good development. Apples grown in the southeast were developing nicely as well, with just scattered negative impact due to the freezing temperatures of early May. In the Ridge area, apple fruit set was strong and disease pressure was light, especially for apple scab, which has had few infection periods thus far. Apples were in petal fall along the Ridge. In the northwest, apple trees continued to blossom slowly. **Tart** and **sweet** cherry set varied throughout the southwest. Fruit development looked good. In the southeast, set on cherries was light and fruit size varied dramatically on sweet cherries. In the Ridge area, sweet cherries showed signs of poor pollination, but tart cherries set quite heavily. In the northwest, cherries were at petal fall. In the southeast, **peaches** were in shuck split. Peaches were in shuck in the west central part of the State. **Strawberries**, **blueberries**, and **raspberries** were nearing bloom in the west central and ranged into full bloom in the southeast.

Vegetables

Many vegetable growers were almost complete with planting various crops throughout the State. Some areas were below normal precipitation; however, the soil moisture was good in many areas. **Asparagus** production was still behind normal due to the cool temperatures and a severe labor shortage. **Cabbage** has progressed and was filling out. **Carrots** and **onions** were reported to be in excellent condition with slow and steady growth. **Peas** had progressed to flower. The first planting of **snap beans** was showing true leaves and developing nicely. **Sweet corn** has been growing slowly but the color has improved. Tunnel plants such as **squash**, **zucchini**, and **cucumbers** have grown considerably and were at five to eight leaves. **Pepper** planting was in full swing in many areas. Processing **tomato** planting was about two-thirds complete, and planting continued for fresh market tomatoes.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/29/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	4	22	71	3
Subsoil	6	22	70	2

Crop condition for week ending 05/29/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	1	7	36	44	12
Barley	0	1	17	72	10
Corn	1	3	43	46	7
Oats	1	3	17	61	18
Pasture	1	4	40	44	11
Soybeans	0	3	42	44	11
Winter Wheat	1	8	27	55	9

Crop progress for week ending 05/29/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, first cutting	16	2	5	7
Asparagus, harvested	48	27	56	63
Barley, emerged	100	84	84	80
Corn, planted	98	88	76	83
Corn, emerged	64	42	64	58
Dry beans, planted	13	3	0	NA
Oats, emerged	99	93	96	92
Potatoes, planted	86	81	68	81
Potatoes, emerged	32	30	44	NA
Soybeans, planted	89	73	44	54
Soybeans, emerged	39	15	32	31
Winter wheat, headed	14	1	51	34

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/29/05 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2005	2004	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal Since April 1	Normal For month
Ironwood	72	37		338	249		0.34	0.70	1.81	2.60		
Marquette	76	39		288	217		0.88	1.71	2.50	4.88		
Stephenson	75	39		336	344		0.19	1.25	2.40	3.69		
Western UP	76	36	0	307	241	293	0.38	1.07	2.26	3.50	5.47	3.37
Cornell	75	41		281	240		0.91	1.85	2.56	3.89		
Sault St Marie	77	37		258	136		0.09	0.11	1.61	2.86		
Eastern UP	77	35	1	267	185	202	0.38	0.92	2.04	3.53	5.23	3.01
Beulah	70	41		399	330		0.04	1.05	1.82	3.13		
Lake City	74	38		355	336		0.30	1.77	2.52	3.63		
Old Mission	70	39		347	275		0.09	1.11	1.69	2.92		
Pellston	75	33		343	291		0.16	0.65	1.42	2.78		
Northwest	75	33	-3	343	288	350	0.14	1.05	1.70	2.92	5.17	2.61
Alpena	76	37		296	290		0.17	0.18	0.73	2.61		
Houghton Lake	75	36		361	357		0.04	1.12	1.67	2.44		
Rogers City	76	38		342	264		0.20	0.86	1.42	2.83		
Northeast	77	34	-2	348	322	326	0.18	0.83	1.45	2.83	5.17	2.76
Fremont	76	42		440	470		0.06	0.34	1.41	1.81		
Hart	71	40		404	401		0.11	1.06	2.00	2.71		
Muskegon	70	42		413	457		0.09	0.51	2.23	2.66		
West Central	76	38	-3	412	427	400	0.09	0.72	1.81	2.25	5.71	2.67
Alma	75	42		425	488		0.00	0.21	1.32	1.98		
Big Rapids	75	39		417	449		0.00	0.00	0.92	0.92		
Central	76	38	-3	421	468	436	0.00	0.18	1.23	1.74	5.76	2.79
Bad Axe	74	44		367	391		0.10	0.54	1.55	3.44		
Pigeon	74	43		343	377		0.00	0.61	1.40	2.31		
Saginaw	73	44		367	458		0.11	0.72	2.12	3.50		
Standish	74	44		363	399		0.14	0.96	2.05	3.46		
East Central	75	40	-2	349	415	417	0.23	0.89	1.96	3.35	5.08	2.63
Fennville	74	41		457	499		0.06	0.69	1.33	1.95		
Grand Rapids	74	43		457	597		0.02	0.50	2.01	2.83		
Holland	72	43		457	523		0.04	0.31	0.43	1.25		
South Bend, IN	73	42		542	657		0.00	0.52	0.88	1.91		
Watervliet	73	43		494	559		0.14	0.76	1.61	2.40		
Southwest	75	41	-5	487	573	471	0.16	0.64	1.38	2.21	6.23	3.01
Belding	76	38		429	533		0.00	0.59	2.13	3.36		
Coldwater	74	39		447	539		0.05	0.68	1.54	2.28		
Lansing	75	42		460	553		0.09	0.87	1.72	2.78		
South Central	76	38	-4	458	575	470	0.03	0.52	1.43	2.17	6.01	2.92
Detroit	75	47		467	601		0.09	1.06	1.83	3.62		
Flint	74	38		430	587		0.06	0.61	1.37	2.70		
Romeo	74	42		416	526		0.07	0.92	1.90	4.15		
Tipton	75	44		480	560		0.16	1.10	2.51	3.93		
Toledo, OH	76	44		485	669		0.32	1.05	1.68	4.10		
Southeast	77	38	-2	451	586	447	0.14	0.96	1.85	3.93	5.97	2.85

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.